

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows; this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for operating ~~an~~ a household appliance, comprising:
subjecting items retained in the appliance to a drying step after the items have undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the items, the step of drying including conducting air from a treatment chamber via a conduit system in which both ends of at least one heat pipe protrude, thereafter conducting the air through the at least one heat pipe, and recirculating the air back to the treatment chamber, whereupon, during the passage of the air between its exit of the treatment chamber and its recirculation to the treatment chamber, the air is cooled, moisture is removed from the air, and the air is subsequently reheated with no outside air being introduced into the treatment chamber and the conduit system.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is conveyed by means of a fan.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is cooled by means of the heat pipe.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is heated by means of the heat pipe.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is heated by means of a heater.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the air is passed by a condenser.
13. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the appliance is a dishwasher that performs a programme run consisting of at least one partial programme step "pre-wash", a partial programme step "clean", at least one partial programme step "intermediate rinse", a partial programme step "clear rinse" and a partial program step "dry" to thereby wash and dry crockery and the step of drying includes conducting air from the treatment chamber during the "dry" partial programme step via the conduit system and recirculating the air back to the treatment chamber.